



# CIVIL RIGHTS MEMORIAL

## *Virginia State Capitol Dedication*

**I**t could be said that Barbara Rose Johns is Virginia's Rosa Parks. Not enough have heard the story of how this brave young 16-year-old caused a quiet revolution in the small town of Farmville, Virginia, the ripples of which would be felt throughout the state and the nation for years to come.

In April 1951, Barbara and her fellow students at Robert Russa Moton High School staged a walkout and protest to draw attention to the deplorable conditions at their segregated school. The case eventually led to *Brown v. Board of Education*. The Prince Edward case inspired the writers of Virginia's 1971 state constitution to put education in the Bill of Rights to prevent a reoccurrence of this tragedy.

The Capitol Square Civil Rights Memorial will recognize and celebrate the Virginians who risked everything in the struggle to gain educational rights for all. The memorial, to be installed on the grounds of Virginia's historic state Capitol in Richmond, Virginia, also serves to remind us of the debt we all owe to the sacrifice and courage of a few. It will give the thousands of students who visit Capitol Square every year an opportunity to learn important lessons from a pivotal time in Virginia's history and to inspire future generations.

## SAVE THE DATES FOR SIGNATURE EVENTS

### JULY 20 - 21, 2008

#### **Sunday, July 20, 2008**

*"From Struggle to Triumph to Tomorrow"* Afternoon Event (Symposium – Library of Virginia) Premiere preview of "They Closed Our Schools." The film is based on the Moton High School story and will be followed by an intellectual symposium to discuss the question of "Are our schools better off today? Where do we go from here?" The discussion will feature a stellar panel of education experts, intellectuals and preeminent commentators on socioeconomics in the African-American community including John Stokes of the Moton school protest and Cheryl Brown Henderson of *Brown v. Board of Education*.

#### **Monday, July 21, 2008 — 10:30 am**

*Unveiling and Dedication Ceremony* (Virginia Capitol Square – Downtown Richmond) The culminating event of the two-day celebration will be the unveiling and dedication of the Civil Rights Memorial on the Virginia State Capitol Grounds. Governor Timothy M. Kaine and the General Assembly Leadership will be the primary speakers as well as the Honorary Co-Chairs. The Executive Committee will detail the formal program to include musical selections and student participation.

*Additional signature events will be announced. Visit [www.vacivilrightsmemorial.org](http://www.vacivilrightsmemorial.org) for more information.*